

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application.
No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Entry Of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels a claim and places the application in condition for allowance.

Status Of The Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claim 1-8 and 10-18 are pending in the application. Claims 10-12 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. This Amendment cancels allowable claim 9 and incorporates its subject matter into claim 1. Allowable claim 18 has been amended to stand as in independent claim by incorporating the subject matter of claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to better set forth the invention being claimed. Claims 13-16 have been amended to not depend upon a canceled claim.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 3 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Applicant traverses.

At paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claims 3 and 4 are indefinite by reciting a moment of inertia outside of the range set forth in the base claim.

The Examiner's comments have been considered. Claims 3 and 4 have been amended to recite a moment of inertia encompassed by the base claim. Claims 3 and 4 are thus clear, definite and have full antecedent basis.

This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over JP 2000-210398 in view of Stites (U.S. Patent 5,935,020) Applicant traverses.

Allowable claim 9 as been canceled and its subject matter has been incorporated into claim 1. Claims 9 was free of this rejection over JP 2000-210398 in view of Stites, and thus claim 1 and its dependent claims are now instantly allowable over this combination of references.

This rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejoinder

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 10-12 from consideration. However, claims 10-12 are each dependent upon claim 1, which is now instantly allowable. As a result, there is no burden placed upon the Examiner to rejoin and allow claims 10-12. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to rejoin claims 10-12 and place these claims in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 3, 2004 and for making the initialed PTO-1449 form of record in the application in the Office Action mailed February 8, 2005.

The Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Foreign Priority

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge foreign priority in the next official action.

Conclusion

The Examiner's rejections have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No.42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/725,458
Amendment dated April 25, 2006
After Final Office Action of January 25, 2006

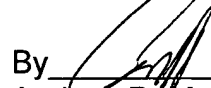
Docket No.: 0229-0782P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 25, 2006



Respectfully submitted,



By _____
Andrew D. Meikle
Registration No.: 32,868
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant